

English E/IIIA Homework Activities

Pre-Reading Activities

Activity 1 Key Vocabulary Match these words from the article with their English meanings..

Score: ____ /15

1. ____ homosexual	a. a man or woman who is sexually attracted to people of the opposite sex.
2. ____ gender-identity disorder	b. a man or woman who is sexually attracted to people of the same sex.
3. ____ alternative lifestyle	c. a man or woman who is sexually attracted to both men and woman.
4. ____ transsexual	d. a man or woman who wants to be a member of the opposite sex.
5. ____ gay	e. a homosexual man or woman.
6. ____ lesbian	f. a homosexual woman.
7. ____ same-sex marriage	g. lifestyles that are considered unusual or out of the ordinary.
8. ____ heterosexual	h. marriage between people of the same sex.
9. ____ sex-change operation	i. a medical disorder where a man or woman feels as if they are really the opposite sex.
10. ____ transvestite	j. marriage between people of the same sex (ie. man-man, woman-woman).
11. ____ hormone treatment	k. someone who enjoys wearing the clothes of the opposite sex.
12. ____ to come out of the closet	l. a medical treatment where hormones are taken to help change their bodies to the opposite sex.
13. ____ bisexual	m. to declare openly that one is gay.
14. ____ gay partner	n. a term used in homosexual relationships instead of husband, wife, boyfriend, girlfriend, etc.
15. ____ homophobic	o. irrational fear of homosexuals or the homosexual lifestyle.

Activity 2 Scanning As quickly as possible, find out who these people are. Write a brief description Score: ____ /10 (2 each)

- Aya Kamikawa _____
- Kunio Koide _____
- Takafuji Fujio _____
- Kanako Otsuji _____
- Aki Nomiya _____

Activity 3 Skimming Quickly skim (read quickly and lightly) this week's article and mark any new words or expressions. In the chart below, write all the new words or expressions you marked. When you are finished skimming, look up these new words in your dictionaries and write the Japanese meaning. When you are finished with today's lesson, add these words and expressions to your Personal Dictionaries.

English	日本語	English	日本語	English	日本語	English	日本語

Reading-in-Detail Activities

Activity 4 Reading in Detail Read today's article slowly and carefully. Try to understand everything in the article. When you are finished, READ THE ARTICLE AGAIN OUT LOUD. Do this several times to help you understand and remember new vocabulary.

Activity 5 Discussion Questions Once you have read the articles several times, think about the questions below. You and your group will discuss these questions in class, so prepare your own opinions and thoughts before you come to class. For the last two, think of two questions about the article on your own.

Discussion Questions

- Do you know any gay people? How are they "different" from "normal" people?
- What is your image of a gay man or woman? How do you think you formed this image?
- Are gay men accepted more in society than gay women? Why/ Why not?
- What problems do you think gay people face in Japanese society?
- Do you think a gay couple should have the same civil rights as a heterosexual couple?
- How would you feel having:

a gay family member?	a gay teacher for yourself? for your kids?
a gay dentist?	a gay friend?
a gay co-worker?	a gay bar tender?

7. _____ ???

Out of the closet: Japan's transsexuals gain freedoms, but still face barriers



Drag queens take part in the Tokyo Gay and Lesbian Parade, which was revived after a halt for two years, in Tokyo.

To most Japanese, Takafumi Fujio - with crew-cut hair, thick arms and deep voice - is a typical, **middle**-aged salaryman. But until four years ago, when the food company worker started on a range of hormone treatments, he was a woman, a housewife and mother of **two**. Fujio is one of an estimated 7,000 to 10,000 Japanese who believe they were **born** the wrong sex - a *sexual* minority that has been largely hidden from view in Japan. But that is quickly changing.

Japan's first sex-change operation was performed in 1998, and the first transsexual and gay politicians were elected to public office in 2003. A

groundbreaking legal reform allowing some transsexuals to change their officially registered sex took effect the following year.

The advances - the result of long years of work behind the scenes - have given Japan's sexual minorities rising self-confidence and a greater willingness to **come** out of the closet despite the country's legendary conformity and disdain for displays of individuality.



Takafumi Fujio

The rising visibility is a sharp turnaround for those like Fujio, who grew up in **postwar** Japan where talk of transsexual lifestyles was rare.

"These changes have been long **overdue**," Fujio said at a recent interview in Tokyo. "I think the law got people thinking, 'If the law has recognized these people, they must be acceptable after all.'"

Greater visibility and changes in the law are part of a general trend in Japan toward more personal freedom.

Technology and tradition have also played a **role**. The Internet has spread information about alternative lifestyles to people who in previous generations would have been **isolated**. Meanwhile, Japan's lack of deeply rooted moral or religious censure of sexual minorities has made the transition easier.

"The transsexual community had a great dilemma. If we **spoke** out, we risked our jobs, our livelihoods. But by staying silent, nothing would change," said Aya Kamikawa, Japan's first and **only** transsexual politician.



Aya Kamikawa,

Since 2003, Kamikawa - a woman who used to be a man - has played a key role in fighting for changes at both the **national** and local levels, including the sex-change law. She has also successfully fought to eliminate unnecessary mention of gender in public documents. Still, there remain obstacles to full acceptance.

Under the 2004 law, for instance, only unmarried, childless applicants can change their official gender. Applicants also must have had a sex-change operation and been diagnosed by two doctors as having so-called *gender-identity disorder*. Only 151 people in Japan officially changed their sex between July 2004, when the law went into **force**, and the end of March 2005, according to the Justice Ministry. Takafumi Fujio isn't eligible to change his official sex because he has children.

The stigma of transsexuality is also still high in Japan. Transsexuals say they are reluctant to seek work or even go to the dentist for fear their original gender will be revealed by documents such as health insurance cards. Moreover, transsexuals experience even more restrictions because some of them are also gay or lesbian. Same-**sex** marriages are forbidden in Japan, hospital visits by gay partners can be blocked and it's

impossible for homosexual couples to jointly purchase a home or for a survivor to inherit the assets of a gay partner.

"We have no legal protection or assurances whatsoever, and that brings many worries," said Aki Nomiya, who was born male but now **lives** as a woman with a female partner, though she has not had a full sex-change operation.

Japan first needs to allow for a partnership system like that of France, whose 1999 Civil Solidarity Pact gives some legal rights to unmarried couples, Nomiya says. But Japanese officials say Japan isn't yet **ready** for such changes.

"This is a very complicated and divisive problem that needs to be treated with caution" said Kunio Koide, councilor of the Civil Affairs Bureau of the Justice Ministry. "I don't see widespread support for reforms at the moment."



Kanako Otsuji,

Still, Japan's sexual minorities as a **whole** have claimed some victories.

Kanako Otsuji, Japan's first openly gay politician, successfully lobbied for a change in local regulations to allow non-married couples to apply for public housing - including gays and transsexuals.

"My generation has been the first to speak out about sexual minority rights in any meaningful **way**," Otsuji, 31, said in Osaka prefecture, where she has held an assembly seat since 2003.

In the **meantime**, Japan's transsexuals are enjoying their increasing freedom - while suffering the enduring restrictions.

As a **young** woman, Fujio says he suppressed his desire to live as a man and married a male co-worker "mainly out of feelings of obligation," **giving** birth to two girls.

Nine years later in 2002, Fujio made the decision to divorce and live as a man.

That decision, however, has had painful consequences. His ex-husband's family has allowed him to see his children only once since the divorce four years **ago**.

"Of course it's **tough**. We have to first get the public to think, 'It's OK to live that way of **life**,'" he said. "Then, maybe I'll get to see my kids - maybe in 10 years."



Takafuji Fujio

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